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AMERICA**

# School Pantry

a program of The Idaho Foodbank

IMPACT REPORT

AUGUST 2019



Together,  
we can solve  
hunger.

*During the school year, families and school-age children have access to supplemental food in an environment that is both familiar and supportive. School Pantries stock popular, easy-to prepare food items such as fruit, canned tuna, peanut butter and pasta.*

## Recognizing The Need

Early in the Backpack program, the Foodbank staff recognized that more than 80% of participating students were sharing their weekend food with siblings and parents. Rather than adding more food to the backpacks, program specialists decided that a better solution would be to provide families with food through a pantry set up inside the school where access would be convenient for students and family alike. Since its inception in 2010, the School Pantry program has been responsible for distributing more than a million pounds of food to families in need.

## Solving Childhood Hunger

2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

**37/13**

participating schools  
and counties

**1,890**

total households served

**61%**

of people served  
were children

**206,284**

pounds of food provided;  
enough for 171,903 meals

## Survey Results Tell the Story

- **81%** of parents agreed that without the School Pantry program, their family would have to skip one or more meals.
- **91%** of parents said the program had made a positive difference in the well-being of their family.
- **80%** of parents said program participation improved their overall communication with the school.

# Hunger Has No Boundaries:

Children struggling with hunger come from families who are struggling, too. The School Pantry program strives to solve this challenge by providing individuals access to free food in an environment that is familiar, supportive, and convenient.

"I like that I feel comfortable. They are kind and considerate of what I am going through and they don't judge me."

– School Pantry Client



"A single mom who was regularly accessing the pantry has been able to focus and finish her degree. She has now secured a better paying job and no longer needs to come in."

– School Staff Member

"Due to the lack of affordable housing, the food pantry has become a necessary resource in our community. It allows them to shop for food they otherwise would not have access to."

– School Staff Member



"I was very satisfied and grateful we had the opportunity to use this when we needed it. It was also convenient as we live far out of town."

– School Pantry Client

## Community Schools:

The Community Schools model is gaining traction in the southern part of Idaho. This model focuses on co-locating resources at school locations with high-need. The Idaho Foodbank provides School Pantries in the following Districts.

### BOISE SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Garfield Elementary
- Morley Nelson Elementary
- Whitney Elementary
- Whittier Elementary
- Frank Church Elementary

### NAMPA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Central Elementary
- Iowa Elementary
- Sherman Elementary
- Snake River Elementary

## About The Idaho Foodbank

The Idaho Foodbank is an independent, donor-supported, nonprofit organization founded in 1984, and is the largest distributor of free food assistance in Idaho. In its 35-year history, The Foodbank has distributed millions of pounds of food through its facilities in Boise, Lewiston, and Pocatello. In the last fiscal year, The Foodbank provided food for nearly 17 million meals to Idahoans in need. The Foodbank distributes food through a network of more than 400 community-based partners including schools, food pantries, senior centers, feeding sites, shelters, and churches. Recognizing the crucial connection between hunger and health, The Idaho Foodbank focuses on healthy food options and partners with community programs to promote nutrition education and healthy living. Visit [www.idahofoodbank.org](http://www.idahofoodbank.org) for more information.



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The only Idaho nonprofit to receive a four-star rating for 10 consecutive years.